



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 23, 2015

**Contact:**

Olympia Meola

Press Secretary

[Olympia.Meola@ccsso.org](mailto:Olympia.Meola@ccsso.org)

## **CCSSO Elects Evers 2015 President**

**Charlotte N.C. (November 21, 2015)** — The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) announced its 2015-2016 Board of Directors. Elections took place during the CCSSO 2015 Annual Policy Forum in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Tony Evers, Wisconsin's State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was elected CCSSO president, and Melody Schopp, South Dakota's Secretary of Education, was chosen as president-elect.

CCSSO members elected new directors Tommy Bice, Alabama Superintendent of Education, and Mike Martirano, West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, to serve three-year terms.

In addition, CCSSO members elected Virginia Barry, New Hampshire Commissioner of Education, and Hanna Skandera, New Mexico Secretary of Education, to serve two-year board terms. Randy Dorn, Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction, was elected to a one-year board term.

Barry, Skandera and Dorn were previously appointed to fill interim vacancies on the board and have now been formally elected by the membership to fulfill the remainder of the terms.

The new directors join continuing members June Atkinson, past president of CCSSO's board and the North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Brenda Cassellius, Minnesota Education Commissioner.

CCSSO's Board of Directors manages the overall business affairs of the Council and is the governing body of the organization. The board is composed of the president, the president-elect, the past president, and six directors elected by CCSSO members.

"I am honored to serve as president of the Council of Chief State School Officers," Evers said. "The nation's state education chiefs work to overcome their own set of challenges to prepare all of their students for college and career. CCSSO provides a forum where, working together and sharing our best ideas, we can find effective ways to ensure success for our educators and students. I look forward to serving in this role."

"The Board of Directors serves a critical role in driving the collective action of the Council of Chief State School Officers," said Executive Director Chris Minnich. "I look forward to working with our new President Tony Evers and all the members of the Board as we continue to ensure all students participating in our public education system - regardless of background - graduate prepared for college, careers and life."

The following is a list of CCSSO's 2015-2016 Board of Directors:

President: Tony Evers, Wisconsin Superintendent of Public Instruction

President-Elect: Melody Schopp, South Dakota Secretary of Education

Past President: June Atkinson, North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction

Board Member: Virginia Barry, New Hampshire Commissioner of Education

Board Member: Tommy Bice, Alabama Superintendent of Education

Board Member: Brenda Cassellius, Minnesota Education Commissioner

Board Member: Randy Dorn, Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction

Board Member: Mike Martirano, West Virginia Superintendent of Schools

Board Member: Hanna Skandera, New Mexico Secretary of Education

###

*The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nonpartisan, nationwide, nonprofit organization of public officials who head departments of elementary and secondary education in the states, the District of Columbia, the Department of Defense Education Activity, and five U.S. extra-state jurisdictions. CCSSO provides leadership, advocacy, and technical assistance on major educational issues. The Council seeks member consensus on major educational issues and expresses their views to civic and professional organizations, federal agencies, Congress, and the public.*